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Ohio Mycological Bulletin No. 4

W. A. Kellerman, Ph.D., Ohio State University,

Columbus, Ohio, May 12, 1903.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.—The still growing membership roll is very gratifying, and hearty thanks are extended to all who have taken such kindly interest in the matter. I am indebted to many persons for charming specimens; those sent in by the Helmick boys furnishing the photographs for one of the cuts of *Pe-zi'-za re-tic-u-la'-ta*,—the other cut of this species being the specimens collected by E. A. Sanders. Prof. Schaffner and Assistant Jennings collected the little *Mor-chel'-las* shown on this page. Messrs. Jennings and Sanders brought the fine large *Hel-vel'-las*, that is to say *Gy-ro-mi'-tra brun'-ne-a*, from which the cut of reduced figures given on page 16 was prepared.



Fig. 19. *Mor-chel'-la sem-i-lib'-er-a*. Free-cap Morel. Edible. Plants shown the natural size.

MYCOLOGICAL EXHIBITION.— Friday afternoon, May 22, from 2 to 5 o'clock, there will be an Exhibition of Mushrooms in the lecture room of the Botanical Building, Ohio State University, to which the public is cordially invited. A short lecture will be given to amateurs at 4 o'clock. Members of the Ohio Mycological Club living at, or not too distant from Columbus, are cordially invited to attend, but this notice is given to all readers of this Bulletin as a suggestion, which perhaps in some cases might be carried out by members in their own communities. If one or two undertake an exhibition, at some stated time, of what might be found in their region, cordial assistance doubtless would be given by the teachers of the public schools, many pupils and other enthusiasts.

If there is a local Horticultural Society, Farmers' Club, or Floricultural Association, such an organization might lend assistance or even take the initiative in such an exhibition. Increasing the interest in Mycology and disseminating information leading to more extended study and wider use of Mushrooms, would certainly be some of the valuable results of such an undertaking.

It would perhaps also be an opportune time to make the *Bulletin* known to others, "price 10 cents," through the kind efforts of present members. Moreover the request is made that as far as convenient some specimens of Mushrooms be sent for the May 22d exhibition at Columbus, for which the editor extends thanks in advance to any contributing members.



THE FREE-CAP MO-REL'.— The Morel shown in fig. 19 is called Mor-chel'-la sem-i-lib'er-a — the second, or specific name suggesting its distinguishing character, namely, that the *lower portion of the cap is free from the stem*.

In the common Morels, those forms called by botanists Mor-chel'-la es-cu-len'-ta, Mor-chel'-la con'-i-ca and Mor-chel'-la de-li-ci-o'-sa, (shown in figs. 10, 11 and 18), also Mor-chel'-la cras'-si-pes (which is much like the foregoing, but the cap is equal in width to, or scarcely broader than the granular irregularly furrowed stem — *cras'-sus* meaning broad), the cap is *ad'-nate*, that is wholly attached to the stem, therefore not having a free margin below; in other words the cap is bell-shaped.

A form from Michigan recently described by Prof. Peck, called Mor-

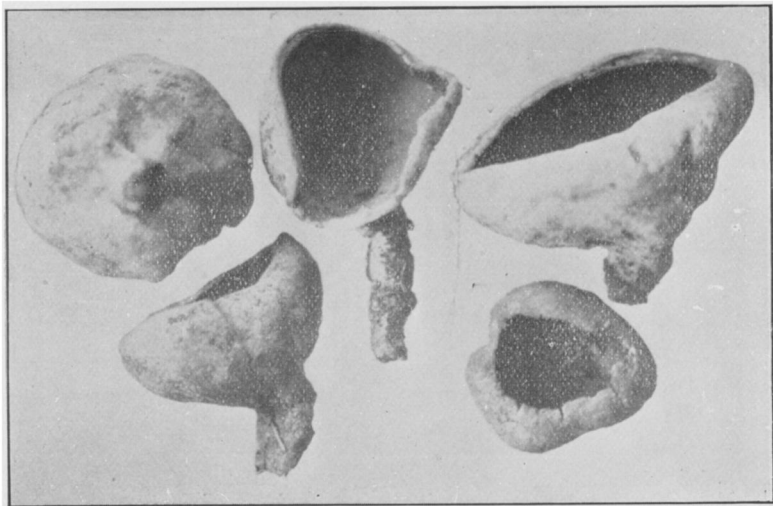


Fig. 20. Pe-zi'-za re-tic-u-la'-ta. Reticulate Peziza. Edible. Nearly the natural size. Same species as shown in Fig. 21.

chel'-la punc'-ti-pes (the Latin word *pes* means foot or stem), much like the Free-cap shown in fig. 19, is said to have a squam'-u-lose stem, *i. e.* covered by little scale-like bodies or points. Then another free-cap form is the Mor-chel'-la bis'-po-ra — which would require the use of a microscope for positive identification, since its spores are two in a sac instead of eight as in all other forms.

The Sem-i-lib'-er-a Morel is small, and while edible is not to be compared with the larger tender forms as the *M. esculenta*, *M. crassipes*, and *M. conica*.



PE-ZI'-ZA FAMILY. — This group is called Pe-zi-za'-ce-ae by the botanists, and for a distinctive common name we will say Pe-zi'-zas. It is a large group but well illustrated by figs. 20 and 21, which show that the form is in general cup or saucer shaped. The hy-me'-ni-al layer — *i. e.* the layer which bears the spores — is the more or less colored portion lining the cup within.

In Pe-zi'-za re-tic-u-la'-ta the color within is brown and the general form may be as regular as those shown in fig. 20, but often they are not so uniform in size and very irregular in shape; Fig. 21 shows such common forms of the same species. Dr. E. J. Durand says that he received a specimen from Illinois that was 15cm. broad (6 inches).

The Pe-zi'-zas are very satisfactory for table use but can hardly be placed on a par with the Morels and *Helvellas*. The young fresh specimens only ought to be used.



HEL-VEL'-LA FAMILY. — This group, called in botanical language Hel-vel-la'-ce-ae, contains such striking forms as the Morels, already figured in Bulletin No. 3, and again on page 13; also other species of which those called Gy-ro-mi'-tra are at once to be recognized from the figure herewith given (Fig. 21). The cap which is covered by the hymenial, or spore-bearing layer, is of peculiar lobed or irregular form, the surface covered with gyrose wrinkles, whereas the *Morchellas* have pits formed by longitudinal and transverse wrinkles. The Gy-ro-mi'-tra brun'-ne-a shown in Fig. 21 has a cap of red-orange color, 3d shade, of Prang's system. It is quite variable in form as the illustration shows. No edible fungus perhaps is superior to this. It may be searched for in such localities as produce the Morels — where there are decaying logs and stumps, and the soil is rich in such organic matter.

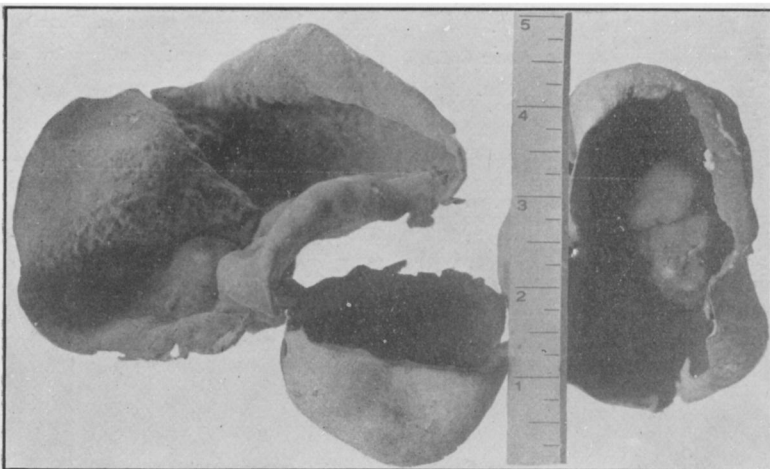


Fig. 21. Pe-zi'-za re-tic-u-la'-ta. Reticulate Peziza. Edible. Typical form of the species; the scale represents inches.

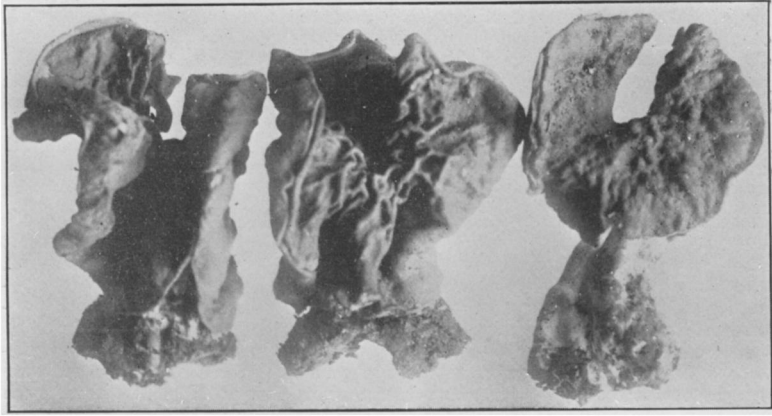


Fig. 22. Gy-ro-mi'-tra brun'-ne-a. Gyromitra or Helvella. Edible. One-quarter to one-half natural size.



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